

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 260615Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9147

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIA

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CPT

1. BANGKOK POST FEBRUARY 26 HEADLINES AN INTERVIEW WITH GROUP CAPTAIN PRASONG SUNSIRI, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, IN WHICH PRASONG CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONTESTING CHINESE CONTROL OVER THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND (CPT). ARTICLE QUOTES PRASONG AS SAYING THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE SLACKENING OF DIRECT CHINESE BACKING FOR THE CPT FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO THE PRC. THE SOVIETS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH NORTH VIETNAM, ARE TRYING TO GAIN AS MUCH CONTROL AS POSSIBLE OVER THE CPT "SINCE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA", PRASONG SAYS. HE ASSERTS THAT THE KGB IS HEAVILY FINANCING THE CPT'S ACTIVITIES.

2. COMMENT: THIS DISCLOSURE BY PRASONG MIGHT BE A DISTORTION OF A CONCLUSION REACHED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE RTG THAT THERE IS A SPLIT WITHIN THE CPT ALONG PEKING/HANOI LINES (BANGKOK 1034 NOTAL. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ASSERTION THAT A SPLIT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE PRC-ORIENTED CPT, BUT HAVE BEEN  
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WATCHING FOR SOME SIGNS OF IT. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE IN PRC SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS SINCE

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO THE PRC.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION OF INCREASED NORTH VIETNAMESE (SOVIET) ASSISTANCE TO THE CPT. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON DIRECT SOVIET FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CPT, AND GIVEN THE TONE OF THE OCTOBER 26, 1975 BROADCAST BY RADIO MOSCOW, IN WHICH THE CPT WAS STRONGLY ATTACKED AS " A MAO TSE-TUNG CLIQUE" AND "PRO-PEKING REBELS," IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOVIET/PRC IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE HAS WON A LARGE ENOUGH SEGMENT OF THE CPT MEMBERSHIP OVER TO THE SOVIETS' SIDE TO RESULT IN DIRECT SOVIET FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CPT.  
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